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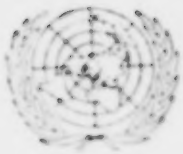

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/C.3/66
3 August 1977

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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GE.77-68256

9. The seventeenth session of the Board was meeting at the mid-point between the fourth and fifth sessions of UNCTAD: it was therefore time to review and appraise the follow-up to the fourth session and, in the light of experience, to formulate new approaches for future negotiations. It had had to be admitted that the Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund had failed, and to various degrees that was also true of the negotiations on various commodities. It was to be hoped that the commitment undertaken by the participants in the conference on International Economic Co-operation and the concern expressed by the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Integrated Programme for Commodities at the poor result achieved, would initiate new and more constructive action.

10. The Board could also review the action taken to give effect to Conference resolution 95 (IV) on trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems, on the basis of a detailed study and a note by the secretariat (TD/B/558 and Add.1). Advantage should be taken of the growing potential in that area to formulate new and more dynamic proposals.

11. At its sixth special session, the General Assembly had recognized the essential role of collective self-reliance in the new international economic order, and the Nairobi Conference had given it political momentum by setting up the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. The Board was now called upon to give substance to the work of that committee.

12. The problem of the external indebtedness of developing countries, the gravity of which was recognized by all, was an urgent one. The two special sessions of the Board devoted to that problem were a re-affirmation of the need to find a solution in the interests of both debtors and creditors.

13. On all those points, the Board would have an opportunity at its seventeenth session to define guidelines and new priorities for the many meetings to be held in the coming months, so that the commitments undertaken at political level would lead within an agreed period of time to concrete action.

Election of the Rapporteur

14. Mr. LALOVIĆ (Yugoslavia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, nominated Mr. Barona (Mexico).

15. Mr. Barona (Mexico) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Election of Vice-Presidents

16. Mr. HESSEL (France), speaking on behalf of Group B, nominated Mr. de Castro (Spain), Mr. Ybvre (France), Mr. Seo (Japan) and Mr. Haugestad (Norway).

17. Mr. LALOVIĆ (Yugoslavia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, nominated Mr. Real (Uruguay), Mr. El-Chafei (Egypt), Mr. Nzue Mboghe (Gabon) and Mr. Khan (Pakistan).

14. Mr. [illegible] (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of Group B, nominated Mr. [illegible] (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Fabian (Hungary).

15. Mr. de Castro (Spain), Mr. Ferre (France), Mr. [illegible] (Japan), Mr. [illegible] (Norway), Mr. [illegible] (Turkey), Mr. [illegible] (Chile), Mr. [illegible] (Ghana), Mr. [illegible], Mr. [illegible] (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Fabian (Hungary) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION (agenda item 1 (b)) (TD/B/6; and Add.1 and 2)

16. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Board should adopt the provisional agenda as approved during the first part of the sixteenth session, together with the amendments it had seen fit to make to item 7 (TD/B/6; and Add.1).

17. It was so decided.

18. The PRESIDENT drew the Board's attention to the secretariat's proposal on the establishment of two sessional committees and the allocation of agenda items to each of them (TD/B/6/Add.2). In the absence of any objection, he would consider that the Board had adopted those proposals.

19. It was so decided.

20. The PRESIDENT invited the Board to decide on the proposal for establishing a contact group of limited size but on a broad geographical basis to consider items 7(a) and 7(c) (TD/B/6/Add.2, para.1). In the absence of any objection he would consider that the Board had adopted that proposal.

21. It was so decided.

22. The PRESIDENT invited the Board to consider the tentative time-table of meetings (TD/B/6/Add.2).

23. Mr. [illegible] (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of Group B, said that in view of the fact that during the session and concurrently with the meetings of Committee II, bilateral and bilateral negotiations would take place between countries with different social and economic systems, it would be preferable to provide for two meetings of Committee II during the first week and three meetings during the second week.

24. It was so decided.

25. The tentative time-table of meetings, as amended, was adopted, subject to possible amendments in the light of developments.

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS (agenda item 7):

(a) ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD AND ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES

30. The PRESIDENT said he had been informed by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD that the United Republic of Tanzania had indicated its wish to become a member of the Board. In the absence of any objection, he would consider that the Board accepted that request.

31. It was so decided.

32. The PRESIDENT proposed that 6 p.m. on Monday, 29 August should be the time-limit for the submission of written notifications by States wishing to become members of any of the main Committees.

33. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.